

BRAUERIA 20

June 1993

Dear Trichopterologist,

The main trichopterological event last year was certainly our 7th symposium in Umeå, Sweden. The lectures gave, as usual, a good cross-section of present work on caddisflies, but the participants will also remember other things with pleasure, e.g. the range of delicious fish dishes at the lunch tables, the excursion to Vindelälven and Umeälven rivers with the opportunity of rafting and collecting specimens. However, the most striking record of Oecetis notata, which fills a distribution gap of 800 km was made on the shop windows of the town ! The meeting was perfectly organized by Christian Otto and his helpers; we are most grateful for everything. I am told the Proceedings will be published soon. For me the most surprising information was the detection of drumming behaviour in adult caddisflies by Vladimir Ivanov. This was long known in other insects, but now we know that caddisflies also communicate with specific drumming sequences, and we know the purpose of the various spines and tongues on the abdominal sternites in some groups.

The next symposium will be organized by Ralph Holzenthal at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis/St. Paul and the Itasca State Park in northern Minnesota, 9 to 15 July 1995; this was already decided during the 6th meeting in Poland. In the final session of the present Umeå meeting, Porntip Chantaramongkol presented the invitation of the Faculty of Science, University of Chiangmai, to hold the 9th symposium in 1998 in Chiangmai, Thailand, and the assembly accepted this invitation. By 1998 I shall be retired, so I shall have plenty of time to help with the organization in Chiangmai. The cost for participants will probably be lower than for Umeå. We hope to be able to present a preliminary survey of the caddis fauna of Thailand at this event. The exact time of the year in 1998 was not yet decided, and Porntip and I welcome your suggestions.

Concerning BRAUERIA, the next few numbers are safe if individuals continue with their financial support, and libraries and other institutions continue to place standing orders.

Looking at the current literature, there are some trends which may cause concern. There is an increasing use of cladistics in taxonomic papers (which is certainly welcome), but this is followed by confusing changes in nomenclature, because the limits of genera or even families are often changed in an arbitrary way. One should not forget that the first purpose of nomenclature is stability and making understanding easier, and not the documentation of short-lived phylogenetical findings.

Another trend is the uncritical mixture of adult and larval identifications in faunistic papers. The identification of adult caddisflies is usually reliable, but that of larvae is highly uncertain even in well-investigated

regions. Therefore, publications should always indicate clearly which species were identified as larvae and which as adults, so that the reader may decide whether to accept unusual faunistic records.

A technical problem which causes difficulties with literature research is the widespread omission of the names of animals in the titles of papers. Authors, editors and peer reviewers should make sure that scientific (not common) names of animals are included in the titles of publications. Titles such as "Parasite-induces collapse of population of a dominant grazer in Michigan streams" or "Effects of life-history attributes and stream discharge on filter-feeder colonization" or "Distributional records from the US Air Force ovi-trapping program 1991" should not be used.

My own work has continued in the study of material and in several trips abroad. In May and June 1992 I was with Füsün Sipahiler on the Aegean coast of Turkey. This tourism-overcrowded region has supplied some surprising results in caddis zoogeography, and there were even several new species. The results will be published soon. In December 1992 I was on the island of Mahé (Seychelles) to study the biology of the unusual larva of Hughscottiella auricapilla which turned out to be a specialized carrion feeder. In addition, I found 3 new species (see the contribution on p.) which suggests that the fauna is not so poor as believed, and that there may be more species. In April and May 1993 I was in southern Thailand, at Hat Yai and Puket, to study the caddis fauna which is quite different from that of the north of the country. I have only just started on the evaluation of this material.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Hans Malicky". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.